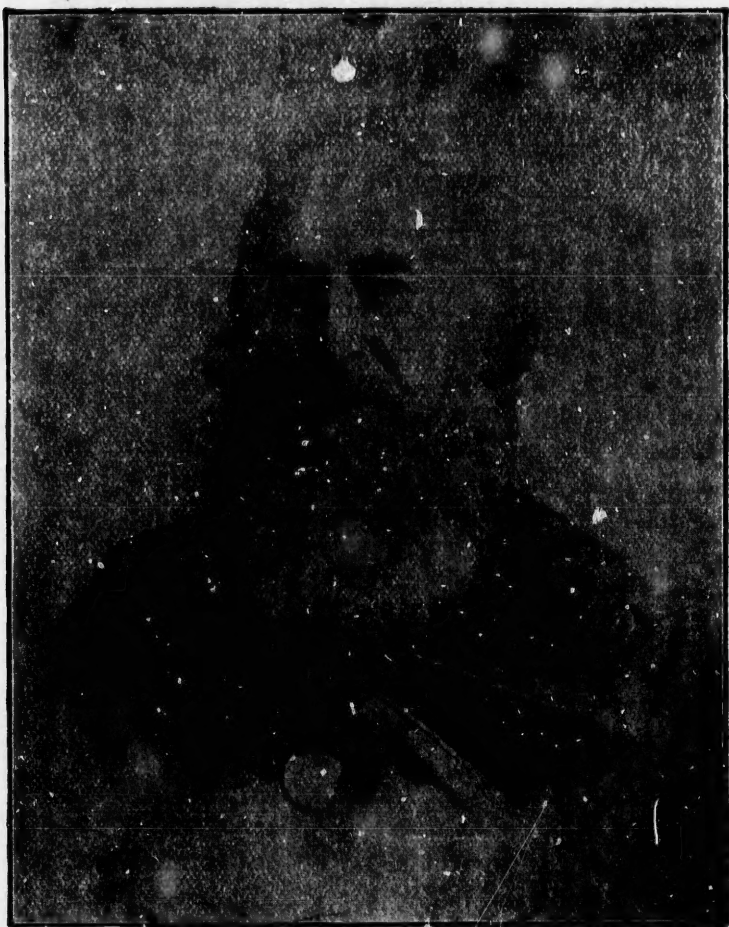




Rev. Charles Chiniquy.

Rev. Charles Chiniquy's Recent Tour Abroad.

BY PROF. JOHN MOORE.

Forty years ago Dr. Chiniquy left the Romish church, after having been a priest for twenty-five years. His career has been a most remarkable one.

He is now 88 years of age, and has lately returned to Montreal, where he resides, after a tour through England, Scotland, France, Germany and Holland. He was in active work, lecturing and preaching constantly, except the time he was sick in London. By Dec. 22, 1896, he had given eighty-two public addresses to great multitudes, that could not be fully accommodated in the largest halls and churches in London, Glasgow, Edinburgh, and other large places. After his recovery from a serious sickness he addressed over 3000 people in Queen's Hall, London, without feeling any fatigue.

There was a remarkable episode that occurred in Scotland. A priest at Oban issued a challenge, and did not evidently expect that Chiniquy would come all the way from London to meet him. But he was mistaken. He came, and achieved one of the grandest triumphs of his life. He writes: "You never saw anything like the reception the Scotch people gave me in my controversy with the Roman Catholic priest at Oban. The hall was crowded, and as I had been challenged to produce the proof of my assertions as to the Roman Catholic church putting the blessed Virgin before our Saviour, there was

some misgiving that I should fail to prove the truth of my statement. I proved it, producing the book and the passage. You never saw such a scene of cheering. My antagonist left the scene, after gathering up his books. The priest was the first at the meeting, and the first to run away when defeated, and the people cried 'Shame! shame!' That was a stunning blow to popery in Oban, and the effect of it in general was tremendous. The Romish bishop requested the Pope, shortly after, to remove the seat of the diocese to another place."

The papers published cartoons showing Chiniquy knocking out his priestly antagonist, which were scattered all over the country. I know Oban well, having had, while in Scotland, a newspaper controversy with a priest there, the private confessor of the Marquis of Bute. The controversy lasted for over three months, and resulted in much good.

Dr. Chiniquy visited Holland, where he spoke in the principal cities. He was delighted with that country, not being able to find language strong enough to express his admiration.

He spent some time in France. He writes: "Yes; we were in France among friends. There are many Protestants, and they are increasing, especially among the priests. They knew of my work in Canada, and they welcomed me very warmly."

He enjoyed exceedingly his visit to Germany. He visited the tombs of Luther and Melancthon, and other objects associated with the Reformation. I give here his own words: "How can I tell you my feelings and my emotions when in that beautiful and celebrated church, where the hero whom God had chosen to pull down the modern Goliath, had so often made his thundering voice heard. No; no words can tell you what I felt when in the very pulpit of Luther I made the echoes of the church repeat the beautiful words of David: 'O my soul,

bless the Lord, and let all that is within me bless his holy name.' ”

The Romanists threatened the life of Chiniquy. The following extract from the *Catholic Times*, as published and circulated by the Protestant Alliance in London, Eng., I here give :

“ A WARNING FOR CHINIQUY.—When one finds that an individual is not afraid or ashamed to indulge in blasphemy, the best rule to adopt with regard to him is to leave him severely alone. He is not a fit person to argue with or recognize in any way. If there are those who listen to him, they must be content to share his malodorous reputation, for men are still judged by the well-known rule, ‘Tell me your company and I will tell you what you are.’ But we would remind this aged blasphemer that there are blasphemies and blasphemies, and whilst strongly deprecating violence, would warn him not to repeat again whilst in this country the horrible parody with regard to the Blessed Eucharist which drew imprecations on his head even at the *Oban meeting*. *Catholics can stand a great deal from their opponents*. That falsehoods—endless and wicked falsehoods—with regard to their practices, ceremonies and clergy should emanate from Protestant platforms is to them a matter of course. *But there is one thing at which their blood boils and which they cannot and will not stand*, and that is the travesty-ing of the sacred ceremony of the Last Supper at which our Lord instituted the Sacrament of the Eucharist. *If the law does not prevent it, then the person who indulges in this awful profanity does so at his peril.*”

This is significant. Popery is the same it ever was, and all it needs is the power to persecute and murder. Of course there is a special hatred toward Chiniquy, who has done more to shake Romanism than any one since Luther and Knox. There is no name that makes the Pope tremble as does his.